

Remarks

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections set forth in the above-mentioned Official Action in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks are respectfully requested.

Claims 42-50 are now pending in the application, with Claims 42, 46, and 50 being independent. Claims 1-41 have been cancelled without prejudice. Claims 42-50 have been added herein.

Applicants note with appreciation the indication that the documents cited in the Information Disclosure Statements filed February 4, 2002, April 12, 2002, May 27, 2004, December 8, 2004, and February 16, 2005, have been considered. However, the Examiner still has not considered the documents cited in the Information Disclosure Statements filed September 19, 2004 and July 19, 2005. It is respectfully requested that those documents be considered and indication of such be returned with the next communication. Copies of the relevant Forms PTO-1449 are provided herewith for the Examiner's convenience.

Claims 21-40 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101 as allegedly being directed to non-statutory subject matter. Since claims 21-40 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer, this rejection is deemed to be moot. Moreover, newly presented independent Claim 50 has been drafted using language believed to be more acceptable to the Examiner. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the § 101 rejection are requested.

Claims 1, 2, 4-6, 11, 12, 14-16, 21, 22, 24-26, 31, 32, and 34-36 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,657,657 (Sato); Claims 7-10, 17-20, 27-30, and 37-40 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S.

Patent No. 6,912,060 (Luciano et al.); Claims 3, 13, 23, and 33 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sato in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,377,294 (Toyofuku et al.); and Claim 41 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sato and Luciano. Since Claims 1-41 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer, the §§ 102 and 103 rejections are deemed moot. Nevertheless, newly-presented Claims 42-50 are believed to be patentable over the citations of record for the following reasons. The new claims are supported in the specification at least at page 25, line 16-page 29, line 9.

Sato is directed to a system including a digital camera and a printer. As understood by Applicants, when it is discriminated that the camera is connected to a printer, a compression mode of image information is automatically selected to record photographed image information. Camera 10 includes a print button 23, a recording mode select switch 26, a compression rate select switch 27 and a compression rate fix button 271. Applicant submits that Sato does not teach controlling execution of printing in accordance with designations associated with a printing menu screen.

Accordingly, Sato fails to disclose or suggest at least a designating unit for designating an image, displayed on a display apparatus, as a print subject, and a display control unit for causing the display apparatus to display a print setting screen, in accordance with the designation by the designating unit, wherein a print instruction is confirmed upon a subsequent designation by the designating unit after the display control unit effects control to cause the display apparatus to display the print setting screen, as is recited in independent 42. Nor does Sato disclose or suggest at least designating an image displayed on a display apparatus as a print subject in accordance with an operation instruction received by an instruction unit, causing the

display apparatus to display a print setting screen, in accordance with the designation, and confirming a print instruction upon receiving a subsequent operation instruction by the instruction unit after effecting control to cause the display apparatus to display the print setting screen, as is recited in independent claims 46 and 50.

Thus, Sato fails to disclose or suggest important features of the present invention recited in the independent claims.

Luciano et al. is directed to photoprinter control of peripheral devices. As understood by Applicants, Luciano et al. discloses a USB connection in a relationship among three pieces of equipment, namely a PC, a printer and a camera, in which the relationship between the PC and the printer and the relationship between the printer and the camera are to be respectively set as host and slave, when connected by USB. However, Luciano et al. is also not believed to teach print execution control based on designations associated with a displayed print menu screen. Accordingly, Luciano et al. fails to disclose or suggest the features of the independent claims noted above as being deficient in Sato.

Toyofuku et al. is directed to an electronic photographing device and was cited for teaching displaying a mark representing a selected sub-mode. However, Toyofuku et al. is not believed to remedy the deficiencies of the citations noted above with respect to the independent claims.

Thus, independent Claims 42, 46 and 50 are patentable over the citations of record. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the §§ 102 and 103 rejections are respectfully requested.

For the foregoing reasons, Applicant respectfully submits that the present invention is patentably defined by independent Claims 42, 46 and 50. Dependent Claims 43-45 and 47-49 are also allowable, in their own right, for defining features of the present invention in addition to those recited in their respective independent claims. Individual consideration of the dependent claims is requested.

Applicant submits that the present application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration, withdrawal of the rejections set forth in the above-noted Office Action, and an early Notice of Allowability are requested.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



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